



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

New Zealand – Punakaiki / Hokitika

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Wellington
- ✓ **Language:** English / Māori
- ✓ **Population:** P ± 40 / H ± 3,600
- ✓ **Currency:** NZ Dollar (\$)
- ✓ **Country code:** +64
- ✓ **Visa:** Yes, check the various visas [here](#)!
- ✓ **Emergency phone:** 111
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A & Hep-B



History Recap Over 1 Drink

1200-1300AD: Ancestors of Māori arrive by canoe from Polynesia. Country name: Aotearoa (*land of long white cloud*). 1642: Dutch Abel Tasman sights South Island, calls it Nieuw Zeeland (*after Dutch province*). 1769: British James Cook explores coastline. 1815: First British missionaries arrive. '40: Treaty of Waitangi between British and Māori tribes: protection Māori land and establishes British law. '45-'72: NZ Wars, Māori resistance against colonial rule. '93: NZ 1st country of women vote. '98: Introduction old-age pensions. 1907: NZ dominion within British Empire. '14: WWI→NZ troops to help British. '39-'45: WWII→again. '47: Full independence. '50-'53: NZ troops serve with UN in Korean War. '51: Anzus Pacific security treaty NZ-Aus-US. '60s: Small troops sent to Vietnam War to support US. '84: Labour government (*Lange*). '85: NZ refuses US nuclear-powered/armed ships to enter ports→Greenpeace ship blown up, Anzus obligations suspended. '89: Palmer, then Bolger Prime Minister (PM). '93: Proportional representation government →more Māori. '97: Shipley 1st female PM. '99: Peacekeeping force in East Timor. Clark PM. '01: Government rescues Air NZ. '02: PM apologizes to Samoa (colonial). '08: Economic recession. Key PM. '09: Troops to Afghanistan for US. '11: Earthquake Christchurch. '13: Gay marriage legal. '16: Bill English PM. '17: Jacinda Adern PM.

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spring												
Summer												
Autumn												
Winter												
Budget						Winter	Ski	Season				

Altitude: P 16m / H 3m. Climate: Mediterranean Maritime (Cfb). Rain all year through.

Bucket List For Free

☺ **Punakaiki:** [Pancake Rocks & Blowholes](#), [Paparoa National Park](#) (check all tracks [here](#)), [Truman Track](#), [Punakaiki Cavern](#), [Paparoa Track & Pike29 Memorial Track](#) (2-4 days).

☺ **Hokitika:** [Hokitika Gorge](#), [Lake Kaniere](#), [Dorothy Falls](#), Hokitika Beach, [Tunnel Terrace Walk](#), Taramakau Road-Rail Bridge, [Lake Mahinapua](#), Heritage Walk, Glow Worms, Sunset Point.

You'll need a car to get to many of the Hokitika highlights... or hitchhike.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

👍 **Punakaiki:** [Canoe & kayak rental](#).

👍 **Hokitika:** Greenstone Carving (several companies), [Kayak on Lake Mahinapua](#), [Tree Top Walk](#), [Shanty Town](#), [Hokitika Museum](#).

The Earth Becomes My Throne

Budget Bites

- ⌘ **Big supermarkets:** Punakaiki has NO supermarkets or dairies. Hokitika has a New World.
- ⌘ **Local food:** Meat pie, fish & chips, hangi (*vegetables & meat*), crayfish, kina (*sea urchin*), pavlova (*desert*), honey, jaffas (*sugarcoated chocolate balls*), kumara (*sweet potato*), paua fritters (*seafood*), marmite (*only if you're brave*).
- ⌘ **Go vegan:** Being vegan is rather easy in New Zealand. Every supermarket has a wide array of vegan products and there are many vegetarian and vegan restaurants... check them on [Happy Cow - Hokitika](#). Not that Punakaiki has no supermarkets or food stores, and the few restaurants have nothing vegan.

Festivals

- ☼ [Hokitika Wildfoods Festival](#): Food / Music, March.
- ☼ Tāiko Festival: Music, April.

Mama Said

- 💀 New Zealand is generally safe, but use your common sense like everywhere. Don't leave valuables in the car or anywhere visible.
- 💀 In Zealand they drive on the left side of the road, so everything is reversed. Pay attention when driving.
- 💀 Boycott zoos or places like the National Kiwi Centre where animals are held in captivity.
- 💀 Locals drink the tap water, but the NZ Government advises to filter or boil it before consumption.
- 💀 When flying into New Zealand, double-check border regulations. Clean all outdoor gear and don't bring food into the country.
- 💀 When travelling to Punakaiki, bring food and money.

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ Hostels and alternative accommodation are not cheap in New Zealand, so keep that in mind. Book via [this Booking.com link](#) and receive a \$15 discount.
- ❖ Wild camping is not allowed in New Zealand (*but you may be naughty*), but free and low-priced campgrounds are available. If there are no on-site toilet buildings you'll need a self-contained vehicle (*with proof*). Punakaiki has the [Beach Camp](#) and Hokitika has [several](#). 'Batches' are popular as holiday homes. Trail huts and campsites can be booked at the [Department of Conversation website](#) or at the i-Site Visitor Center.
- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or Housesitting ([Kiwi Housesitters](#))! Also check [WorkAway](#).

Free-Riding?

- Punakaiki is literally one street with a few side streets, so everything is walkable... Hokitika is a bit bigger, but yet very compact. To reach the main attractions outside of Hokitika you need your own transport.
- Punakaiki and Hokitika have good roads and biking is possible. There are several cool mountain biking tracks, but watch out: Traffic isn't very considerate of bikers on the main roads and it's quite hilly.
- There's no public transport within Punakaiki or Hokitika, but buses go there from other towns, operated by [Intercity](#).
- Airport: Hokitika Airport (HKK).
- Hitch-hiking is relatively safe in NZ and very easy. You can also use carpool apps or one of the many rideshare Facebook-groups to share petrol costs with someone.

Next?

- ➔ In New Zealand: Nelson, Abel Tasman NP, Arthur's Pass, Christchurch, Fox Glacier.
- ➔ International destinations close by: Australia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Samoa, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Fiji, Palau, Micronesia.